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## Occupational Employment and Wages in Winston-Salem – May 2016

Workers in the Winston-Salem Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$21.20 in May 2016, about 11 percent below the nationwide average of \$23.86, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were lower than their respective national averages in 18 of the 22 major occupational groups, including construction and extraction; building and grounds cleaning maintenance; and transportation and material moving. One group—management—had significantly higher wages than its respective national average.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 5 of the 22 occupational groups, including production; healthcare practitioners and technical; and transportation and material moving. Conversely, 12 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including management; computer and mathematical; and construction and extraction. (See [table A](#) and [box note](#) at end of release.)

**Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Winston-Salem Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2016**

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Winston	United States	Winston	Percent difference <sup>(1)</sup>
Total, all occupations .....	100.0	100.0	\$23.86	\$21.20*	-11
Management .....	5.1	3.7*	56.74	59.80*	5
Business and financial operations .....	5.2	4.3*	36.09	34.66*	-4
Computer and mathematical .....	3.0	1.8*	42.25	37.01*	-12
Architecture and engineering .....	1.8	1.0*	40.53	35.00*	-14
Life, physical, and social science .....	0.8	0.6*	35.06	28.88*	-18
Community and social service .....	1.4	1.0*	22.69	21.08*	-7
Legal .....	0.8	0.8	50.95	(2)	-
Education, training, and library .....	6.2	6.9*	26.21	26.89	3
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media .....	1.4	0.7*	28.07	25.24*	-10
Healthcare practitioners and technical .....	5.9	8.0*	38.06	34.13*	-10
Healthcare support .....	2.9	4.3*	14.65	12.79*	-13
Protective service .....	2.4	1.8*	22.03	17.33*	-21
Food preparation and serving related .....	9.2	8.8	11.47	9.98*	-13
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance .....	3.2	3.1	13.47	11.02*	-18
Personal care and service .....	3.2	2.5*	12.74	12.02*	-6
Sales and related .....	10.4	9.6*	19.50	17.08*	-12
Office and administrative support .....	15.7	15.0*	17.91	16.58*	-7
Farming, fishing, and forestry .....	0.3	(2)	13.37	15.21	14
Construction and extraction .....	4.0	2.9*	23.51	18.45*	-22
Installation, maintenance, and repair .....	3.9	3.8	22.45	20.89*	-7

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Winston-Salem Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2016 - Continued**

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Winston	United States	Winston	Percent difference <sup>(1)</sup>
Production .....	6.5	10.7*	17.88	16.69*	-7
Transportation and material moving .....	6.9	8.5*	17.34	14.40*	-17

Footnotes:

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in the Winston-Salem Metropolitan Statistical Area is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.

(2) Estimate not released.

\* The percent share of employment or mean hourly wage for this area is significantly different from the national average of all areas at the 90-percent confidence level.

- Data not available.

One occupational group—production—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Winston-Salem had 27,740 jobs in production, accounting for 10.7 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 6.5-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$16.69, significantly below the national wage of \$17.88.

Some of the larger detailed occupations within the production group included team assemblers (3,520), production workers' helpers (2,280), and inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers (1,510). Among the higher paying jobs were separating, filtering, clarifying, precipitating, and still machine setters, operators, and tenders, and first-line supervisors of production and operating workers, with mean hourly wages of \$29.32 and \$28.93, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were laundry and dry-cleaning workers (\$9.65) and sewing machine operators (\$10.95). (Detailed occupational data for production are presented in [table 1](#); for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_49180.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_49180.htm).)

Location quotients allow us to explore the occupational make-up of a metropolitan area by comparing the composition of jobs in an area relative to the national average. (See [table 1](#).) For example, a location quotient of 2.0 indicates that an occupation accounts for twice the share of employment in the area than it does nationally. In the Winston-Salem Metropolitan Statistical Area, above-average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the production group. For instance, textile winding, twisting, and drawing out machine setters, operators, and tenders were employed at 19.6 times the national rate in Winston, and separating, filtering, clarifying, precipitating, and still machine setters, operators, and tenders, at 9.8 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, electrical and electronic equipment assemblers had a location quotient of 1.0 in Winston, indicating that this particular occupation's local and national employment shares were similar.

These statistics are from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey, a federal-state cooperative program between BLS and State Workforce Agencies, in this case, the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

### **Note on Occupational Employment Statistics Data**

A value that is statistically different from another does not necessarily mean that the difference has economic or practical significance. Statistical significance is concerned with the ability to make confident statements about a universe based on a sample. It is entirely possible that a large difference between two values is not significantly different statistically, while a small difference is, since both the size and heterogeneity of the sample affect the relative error of the data being tested.

### **Technical Note**

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey is a semiannual mail survey measuring occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments in the United States. The OES data available from BLS include cross-industry occupational employment and wage estimates for the nation; over 650 areas, including states and the District of Columbia, metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), metropolitan divisions, nonmetropolitan areas, and territories; national industry-specific estimates at the NAICS sector, 3-, 4-, and selected 5- and 6-digit industry levels, and national estimates by ownership across all industries and for schools and hospitals. OES data are available at [www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm).

OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Each year, two semiannual panels of approximately 200,000 sampled establishments are contacted, one panel in May and the other in November. Responses are obtained by mail, Internet or other electronic means, email, telephone, or personal visit. The May 2016 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2016, November 2015, May 2015, November 2014, May 2014, and November 2013. The overall national response rate for the six panels, based on the 50 states and the District of Columbia, is 73 percent based on establishments and 69 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The unweighted employment of sampled establishments across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 58 percent of total national employment. The sample in the Winston-Salem Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,438 establishments with a response rate of 88 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to [www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm).

The May 2016 OES estimates are based on the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system and the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Information about the 2010 SOC is available on the BLS website at [www.bls.gov/soc](http://www.bls.gov/soc) and information about the 2012 NAICS is available at [www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm](http://www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm).

### **Metropolitan area definitions**

The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

The **Winston-Salem, N.C. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Stokes, and Yadkin Counties.

### **Additional information**

OES data are available on our regional web page at [www.bls.gov/regions/southeast](http://www.bls.gov/regions/southeast). Answers to frequently asked questions about the OES data are available at [www.bls.gov/oes/oes\\_ques.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm). Detailed technical information about the OES survey is available in our Survey Methods and Reliability Statement on the BLS website at [www.bls.gov/oes/current/methods\\_statement.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/methods_statement.pdf).

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

**Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Winston-Salem Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2016**

Occupation <sup>(1)</sup>	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level <sup>(2)</sup>	Location quotient <sup>(3)</sup>	Hourly	Annual <sup>(4)</sup>
Production occupations .....	27,740	1.7	\$16.69	\$34,720
First-line supervisors of production and operating workers .....	1,490	1.3	28.93	60,180
Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers .....	400	1.0	16.05	33,390
Electromechanical equipment assemblers .....	50	0.6	(5)	(5)
Engine and other machine assemblers .....	60	0.8	(5)	(5)
Structural metal fabricators and fitters .....	320	2.2	(5)	(5)
Team assemblers .....	3,520	1.7	13.02	27,080
Assemblers and fabricators, all other .....	120	0.3	14.74	30,650
Bakers .....	470	1.4	11.03	22,940
Butchers and meat cutters .....	210	0.8	14.16	29,450
Food batchmakers .....	260	1.0	12.03	25,030
Computer-controlled machine tool operators, metal and plastic .....	150	0.5	17.90	37,240
Computer numerically controlled machine tool programmers, metal and plastic .....	70	1.6	24.45	50,870
Extruding and drawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic .....	330	2.5	15.11	31,420
Cutting, punching, and press machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic .....	670	1.9	13.92	28,960
Grinding, lapping, polishing, and buffing machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic .....	150	1.1	14.84	30,870
Lathe and turning machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic .....	90	1.5	16.02	33,320
Machinists .....	800	1.1	19.81	41,210
Molding, coremaking, and casting machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic .....	1,180	4.4	13.36	27,790
Multiple machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic .....	570	2.6	19.04	39,590
Tool and die makers .....	140	1.1	22.77	47,350
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers .....	970	1.4	16.65	34,630
Plating and coating machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic .....	40	0.6	13.31	27,690
Prepress technicians and workers .....	60	0.9	20.65	42,950
Printing press operators .....	600	1.9	17.34	36,060
Print binding and finishing workers .....	150	1.6	16.17	33,620
Laundry and dry-cleaning workers .....	240	0.6	9.65	20,080
Pressers, textile, garment, and related materials .....	110	1.4	11.59	24,100
Sewing machine operators .....	570	2.2	10.95	22,770
Textile bleaching and dyeing machine operators and tenders .....	80	3.8	13.63	28,360
Textile cutting machine setters, operators, and tenders ..	80	2.7	12.41	25,800
Textile knitting and weaving machine setters, operators, and tenders .....	270	6.7	12.56	26,130
Textile winding, twisting, and drawing out machine setters, operators, and tenders .....	1,100	19.6	13.99	29,100
Upholsterers .....	160	2.7	17.08	35,530
Textile, apparel, and furnishings workers, all other .....	60	1.9	12.56	26,120
Cabinetmakers and bench carpenters .....	170	1.0	14.88	30,950
Furniture finishers .....	70	2.3	14.30	29,750
Sawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, wood ..	200	2.2	15.71	32,680
Woodworking machine setters, operators, and tenders, except sawing .....	1,030	7.3	12.67	26,350
Water and wastewater treatment plant and system operators .....	160	0.7	18.22	37,900
Chemical equipment operators and tenders .....	(5)	(5)	19.62	40,820
Separating, filtering, clarifying, precipitating, and still machine setters, operators, and tenders .....	850	9.8	29.32	60,990
Grinding and polishing workers, hand .....	50	1.0	13.54	28,170

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Winston-Salem Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2016 - Continued**

Occupation <sup>(1)</sup>	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level <sup>(2)</sup>	Location quotient <sup>(3)</sup>	Hourly	Annual <sup>(4)</sup>
Mixing and blending machine setters, operators, and tenders .....	290	1.2	17.34	36,070
Cutting and slicing machine setters, operators, and tenders .....	240	2.2	16.46	34,230
Extruding, forming, pressing, and compacting machine setters, operators, and tenders .....	140	1.1	17.24	35,860
Furnace, kiln, oven, drier, and kettle operators and tenders .....	(5)	(5)	16.69	34,720
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers .....	1,510	1.6	16.72	34,790
Dental laboratory technicians .....	70	1.0	19.17	39,870
Medical appliance technicians .....	60	2.3	18.49	38,450
Packaging and filling machine operators and tenders ....	1,500	2.1	19.20	39,930
Coating, painting, and spraying machine setters, operators, and tenders .....	340	2.1	16.30	33,900
Painters, transportation equipment .....	80	0.8	22.37	46,520
Painting, coating, and decorating workers .....	(5)	(5)	12.13	25,240
Adhesive bonding machine operators and tenders .....	140	4.4	13.74	28,570
Cleaning, washing, and metal pickling equipment operators and tenders .....	30	0.9	14.35	29,840
Paper goods machine setters, operators, and tenders ...	340	2.0	17.04	35,440
Helpers--production workers .....	2,280	2.9	(5)	(5)
Production workers, all other .....	(5)	(5)	18.24	37,930

Footnotes:

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Winston-Salem, NC Metropolitan Statistical Area, see [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_49180.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_49180.htm)

(2) Estimates for detailed occupations do not sum to the totals because the totals include occupations not shown separately. Estimates do not include self-employed workers.

(3) The location quotient is the ratio of the area concentration of occupational employment to the national average concentration. A location quotient greater than one indicates the occupation has a higher share of employment than average, and a location quotient less than one indicates the occupation is less prevalent in the area than average.

(4) Annual wages have been calculated by multiplying the hourly mean wage by a "year-round, full-time" hours figure of 2,080 hours; for those occupations where there is not an hourly mean wage published, the annual wage has been directly calculated from the reported survey data.

(5) Estimate not released.